(d) The amount of Rs. 3877 crores has been allocated for seismic surveys and exploratory drilling during 8th Plan period.

Allotment of L.P.G. Connections in Rural Areas

1478. SHRI RAMJI LAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of persons have registered their names for the allotment of L.P.G. connections in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that such connections have not been issued to the rural people as the gas agencies exist in cities/big towns of the country;

(c) if so, what would be the fate of these registered persons;

(d) whether Government propose to open such agencies in rural areas to issue connections to the people as rural people are also need of gas connections like city people; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Registration of persons for LPG connections is done with the distributors operating in areas having population of 20,000 and above. Only persons registered get their connections on maturity of their turn.

(d) and (e) : As per present policy new LPG agencies are opened in a phased manner at different locations having a population of 20,000 and above depending upon the economic viability of distributorship and availability of product, etc.

Zero Gas Flaring Project of Bombay High

1479. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the foreign funding agencies in Zero gas flaring projects of Bombay High;

(b) what was the projected availability of gas when these projects were submitted for funding;

(c) whether is any reduction in the projeted availability of gas; and

(d) if so the reasons thereof and how is the shortfall proposed to be met ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Gas Flaring Reduction Project is to be funded by the World Bank, the ADB, Ex'm Bank of Japan, and be export credits.

(b) and (d) While the projections adopted in 1990 for planning purposes (66.67 MMSCMD by 1996-97 was slightly higher than the final assessment of established reserves made in January, 1992 (62.50 MMSCMD by 1996-97), it is expected that commitments made will be met.

Supply of Gas to Consumers of Bombay through Pipelines

1480. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to supply gas to consumers in Bombay through pipelines;

(b) if so, the details of the highlights of the project coverage areas and number of consumers, type of consumers to be benefited-domestic-commercial vehicles etc.;

(c) what is the present waiting list for cooking gas in greater Bombay and total persons to be covered under the scheme alongwith the details of the rehabilitate plan of the present affected distributors and their employees;

(d) what is the present bottling capacity in Greater Bombay and the number of employees engaged and whether there is a proposal to shift bottling plant from Bombay; and

(e) if so, how the employees presently engaged by the bottling plants would be rehabilitated ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Allocation of natural gas for such a purpose has been made to the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) The proposed project envisages supplying gas to 600,000 domestic, 4500 commercial and 145 industrial consumers in Greater Bombay.

(c) to (e) There are about 2.63 lakh persons on the waiting list for LPG connection. At present, the bottling capacity in Greater Bombay is 212 TMTPA and about 560 employees are engaged in the bottling plants, whose capacity will be used for supply of LPG cylinders elsewhere in the country.

Decontrolling of Petroleum Sector

1481. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to decontrol the Petroleum Sector;

(b) if so, what are the areas which are proposed to be decontrolled in the petroleum sector;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard stating the considerations which weighed with Government to take the decision for decontrolling of the petroleum sector; and

(d) what is the likely overall impact on the Petroleum Sector and the consumer as a whole ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) In order to intensify exploration and production of oil and gas as well as to increase refining capacity, liberalised policies have been introduced in the petroleum sector. This is expected to increase the availability of essential petroleum products in the Country.

Setting up of Private Refineries

1482. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a number of applications to set up private refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the companies who have applied for setting up of private refineries in the country; and

(c) the number of Letters of Intent issued to set up private refineries ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following applied for setting up oil refineries/lube refineries in the private sector :—

(i) M/s Reliance Industries.

(ii) M/s. International Petroleum S.A. (BVI), Switzerland.

(iii) M/s Ashok Leyland-Gulf Oil Trading Company of U.S.A.

(iv) M/s Essar.

(v) M/s Hyderabad Industries Ltd.

(vi) M/s Harrison Malayalam Ltd.

(vii) M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. (for Lube).

(c) Four Letters of Intent have been issued to applicants at Nos. (i), (ii), (iii) and (vii) above.

तेल वाहक समुद्री जहाज में हुई दुर्घटना की जांच

1483. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) एस्सार शिपिंग कम्पनी के तेल वाहक समुद्री जहाज में 1992 में हुई दुर्घटना के संबंध में की गई जांच अथवा प्रारंभिक जांच का ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ख) उक्त दुर्घटना का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) : (क) संभवतः उस दुर्घटना का उल्लेख किया गया है जो 2-7-92 को एस्सार शिपिंग कम्पनी के तेल ले जा रहे जहाज में हुई थी। इस दुर्घटना की मर्केन्टाइल मैरीन विभाग,